

The Controversial Christ Mark 2:18-22

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The Controversial Christ Mark 18-22

I once heard of a preacher which called himself "the most controversial preacher in America." I've listened to a number of his sermons, and enjoyed them for the most part, but some times some of the things he would say would just cause me to say "What?" Yes he is pretty controversial you either love him or hate him. Jesus as well was no stranger to controversy. All this chapter he is turning heads and causing people to either scratch their heads or as we will find out later grit their teeth.

The question is; does Jesus cause controversy in ^{our hearts}?

I. The Criticism of Christ

- One of my favorite preachers Tom Hayes said, That most people that come to him ^{asking} questions don't just bring a question, but bring a questioning.

A. The Moment of their Criticism

- All the hub-bub at Matthew's house began to draw a crowd. The puzzled onlookers began to question Christ due to this feast. vs 18. The reason of question, although only 1 prescribed fast before day of atonement, Pharisees took it upon themselves to constitute 2 days of weekly fast. In this was so widely accepted that these other disciples wondered why wasn't Jesus fasting? Here we are on this first day and this man who

claims to be the Prophet of God even God himself and he is just parting it up. Any other day of the week (apart from Sabbath) this would have been a non issue.

B. The Meaning of their Criticism -

We have 2 groups asking this question Pharisees + John Baptists disciples. The Pharisees would fast on Mon + Thur. These were market days. Before the eyes of men would seem more holy or more pious than others. Luke 18:12. They would whiten their faces, mess up their hair, wear discoloured cloths to call attention to their love for God. They are asking "Why don't you like us?" The Disciples of John, were probably like their leader, John was a recluse, he was a bit ascetic who did not avail himself to luxury. They may not have been as showy as Pharisees, yet they wonder why

II. The Celebration of Christ - From His life + teachings to his death + Resurrection. Jesus Christ stands in stark contrast to the rest of the World. ^{Jesus answering their questioning}

A. The Picture of the Bridegroom - He uses the illustration of a marriage, vs 19.

A wedding is and was a great cause for celebration. The happy couple would not leave town on honeymoon but would spend a couple of weeks of feasting + celebrating. Their closest friends invited to stay with them (children + bridgman). Happiest moment of Hard life

1. ...questionings. They already know the answer, but they are trying to interrogate you then pin you down on a matter. That seems to be the bride because of the bridegroom's voice, this my joy that's going on here.

2. Luke 18:12 I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess.

3. Romans 7:4. Wherefore, my brethren, ye also are become dead to the law by the body of Christ; that ye should be married to another, even to him who is raised from the dead, that we should bring forth fruit unto God.

3. Why aren't you like us and John?

4. ...Jesus, answering their questioning uses a beautiful illustration

5. Author : There was actually a rabbinic ruling which said " all in attendance on the bridegroom are relieved of all religious observances which would lessen their joy." Guests exempt from fasting.

1. John 3:29 He that hath the bride is the bridegroom: but the friend of the bridegroom, which standeth and heareth him, rejoiceth greatly because of the bridegroom's voice: this my joy therefore is fulfilled.

2. Romans 7:4 Wherefore, my brethren, ye also are become dead to the law by the body of Christ; that ye should be married to another, even to him who is raised from the dead, that we should bring forth fruit unto God.

3. ...have strong feelings about each other. In order to be married, they must commit themselves to each other and make this commitment known. In most societies, the man and woman publicly affirm this commitment when each says, "I do!" Salvation from sin involves much more than a person knowing about Christ, or even having "good feelings" toward Christ. Salvation comes when the sinner commits himself or herself to Jesus Christ and says, "I do!" Then the believer immediately enters into the joys of this spiritual marriage relationship: bearing His name; sharing His wealth and power; enjoying His love and protection; and one day living in His glorious home in heaven.

He was only pointing out that occasional fasting would be proper at a future time, but that joyful celebration should be the normal experience of believers.

4 ...not old in point of time as years old, but it means old in point of use

B. The Presence of the Bridegroom - 1514
John the Baptist already announces the presence of the Bridegroom (Jn 3:29). God and His people were pictured as a married together in the O.T.

Jesus is announcing that he is the bridegroom. He is now inviting all who will come to sit at the table and feast!

C. The Prophecy of the Bridegroom - 1520

Jesus tempers this excitement and celebration with a haunting prophesy: That of his own death. The revelry and joy of his presence did not deter him from his appointed task. The word "taken" implies by force. Oh our selfless bridegroom, giving himself for ^{Bride!} us.

D. The Principal of the Bridegroom

But what is being taught? He is teaching that the characteristic of Christianity is not sorrow but Joy, not fast or famine but that of a feast! Rom 7:4 Salvation much like a marriage. Warren W. Explains 2 people are not (3) married because they know each other or have striven

III. The Combining of Christ - This departure from traditional teaching must have been quite a shock, standing in stark contrast to their orthodoxy. Jesus wonderfully illustrates

A. The Bending Result of Combining - 1521

Now cloth referring to a cloth that has been shrunk. The word also indicates... Some of these men listening may be entertaining the idea

of adding this teaching to their own religious tradition. Some sort of compromise. But Jesus likens it to this patch that sure as the world is going to shrink when wet and tear the garment. Jesus Christ is not an add on. This is a problem in much of Asian culture where they will give mental assent to Christ but want to add him to their indigenous gods. The claims of Christ call for a whole new garment, a new B.T. The Ruining Result of Combining - 1500 Jesus further emphasises the point by giving another illustration. Bottles here refers to animal skins. Which naturally are flexible but when old harden and can break. During fermentation of wine gas is produced by new wine that would cause the old skins to break. Some want to take the empty dead shell of works and just pour in a little Jesus but it just does not work. Salvation is not a patch job or mix job it is a whole new you. Christ fulfilled the law not destroyed it. Warren Wiersbe →

IV. Closing

1. A new covenant in His blood, where the law of God is written upon the heart of flesh instead of stone and the enabling power of the Holy Spirit is given to fulfill the righteousness of the Law

2) The Christian life is not a mixing of the old and the new; rather, it is a fulfillment of the old in the new. There are two ways to destroy a thing: you can smash it, or you can permit it to fulfill itself. An acorn, for example, can be smashed with a hammer, or it can be planted and allowed to grow into an oak. In both instances, the destruction of the acorn is accomplished; but in the second instance, the acorn is destroyed by being fulfilled. Jesus fulfilled the prophecies, types, and demands of the Law of Moses. The Law was ended at Calvary when the perfect sacrifice was once offered for the sins of the world

How tragic when people hold on to dead religious tradition when they could lay hold of living spiritual truth. Why cherish the shadows when the reality has come?